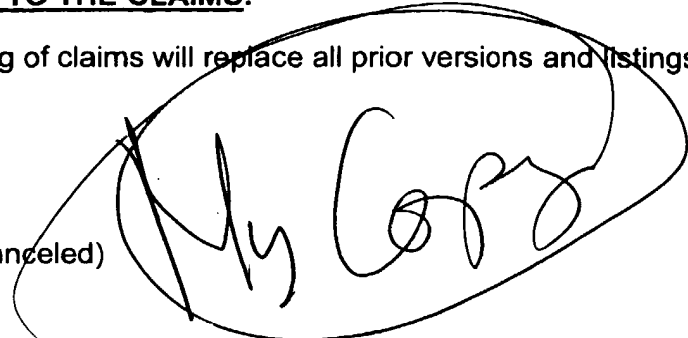


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-5. (canceled)



✓ 6. (currently amended) A method of treating or preventing *H. pylori* infection in humans or animals comprising the step of administering a molecule capable of inhibiting the growth or survival of *H. pylori in vivo* according to claim 5 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier to a human or animal in need of such treatment, wherein the identification of said molecule comprises:

(a) contacting a parental *Helicobacter* with said molecule in a biological sample;

(b) testing and comparing the response to extracellular pH and the sensitivity to acidity of the parental strain to a strain deficient in Urel and/or of a Urel deficient strain complemented with a plasmid carrying *urel* in the presence or absence of said active molecule; and

(c) selecting said molecule displaying a differential effect on the parental strain as compared to the Urel deficient strain.

✓ 7. (original) A method of preventing or treating *H. pylori* infection comprising the step of administering a molecule capable of inhibiting the growth or survival of *H. pylori in vivo* to a human or animal in need of such treatment.

8. (original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the molecule is transported inside the *H. pylori* cell due to a high affinity for Urel.

✓ 9. (original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the molecule inactivates Urel by inhibiting its properties in *H. pylori* resistance to acidity.

✓ 10. (original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the molecule inactivates Urel by inhibiting its properties as a transporter.

✓ 11. (original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the molecule inactivates Urel by inhibiting an interaction between Urel and other *H. pylori* proteins.

✓ 12. (original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the molecule is capable of intracellular inhibition of urease in *H. pylori*.

13-24. (canceled)

✓ 25. (new) The method according to claim 9, wherein the molecule inactivates Urel protein by directly binding to Urel.

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✓ 26. (new) The method according to claim 10, wherein the molecule specifically inhibits Urel transporter properties either in ammonia export or in urea export or import.

✓ 27. (new) The method according to claim 11, wherein the molecule is capable of specifically inhibiting an interaction between Urel and other *H. pylori* proteins.

✓ 28. (new) The method according to claim 12, wherein the molecule is capable of intracellular inhibition of *H. pylori* urease.